

DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT DEVICE,  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT METHOD, PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM  
AND DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

*Substitute  
Spec. Reclaim  
to be  
entered  
F. 7. 3/29/05*

The present invention relates to a distribution management device, a distribution management method, a program storage medium and a distribution management system. More particularly, the present inventions are suitably applied to a distribution management system utilizing a telecommunication network for controlling the distribution and stocks of merchandise.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

15 Distribution management systems are physical distribution systems which utilize the communication network.

In such physical distribution systems, multiple communication terminals for households are connected via the Internet to an information database that is the source of supply of, for example, musical data.

20 Moreover, each information database is connected to a center server for controlling these databases via the specific communication line, and the center server is connected with the maker server for controlling the merchandise, the physical distribution managing server for controlling the delivery of merchandise and the billing control server for controlling the